

## Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

### MEETING SUMMARY

May 18, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

4655 South Holly Street, 98118

### Attendees

**NAC Members:**

Cheryl dos-Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Guyanthony Parramore, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Peter Masundire, Rudy Castillo, Vallerie Fisher

**Public Member:** Bob Rosenberger

**Partners:** Julia Walton (INOVA), Delia Floor (INOVA)

**City Staff:** Nora Liu (DPD), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD)

### Agenda review

- Andres Mantilla from OED will not be able to attend; may need to reschedule OED presentation.
- Gregory and Vallerie asked time on the agenda at the wrap-up session

### May 4, 2011 Summary Notes

- Approved as presented.

### Absences

- NAC members viewed their attendance roster and decided to follow up with Paul as May 18<sup>th</sup> would make his third consecutive absence since May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was a 'bonus'.

***City staff will provide the follow up call to Paul in addition to any interested NAC member.***

### Review and provide Guidance on Initial Strategies

- Summary organized into three categories
- Next step to confirm with community; then move forward with strategies
- Nora led the group in a mapping exercise, illustrating nodes (pearls) where people congregate in Rainier Beach.
  - Area around Light Rail station will become a gathering area in the future.
  - Other areas include Beer Sheba Park, Pritchard Beach, Kubota Park.
  - Shopping areas were spread throughout the area.

- Goal is to improve linkability between communities and improve health of community and its members. Nora stated she is trying to diagram what is currently available and then the group can move into what we would like to see happen in the future.
- Suggestion include:
  - For busses to terminate at train station, not at Henderson. Metro working to extend the Route #7.
  - Too much pavement tends to blur the feeling of a town center, or sense of place.
  - There is no teen center or community center, or place for teens to gather. Definitely heard this at the community meeting. Could utilize the upcoming youth walking tour to identify where teens currently gather and what they would like to see.
  - Specific ethnic based cultural centers are good, but it's also good to have someplace that everyone can gather and celebrate diversity together: a multi-cultural center.
  - Rainier Beach continues to remain diverse area within a city that is becoming less diverse.
    - How to map community character/social relationships?
    - How to map small, local (mom and pop) businesses?
    - Where do community celebrations take place?
    - Does such a place need to be created?
    - How do we strengthen areas where cultural centers are and also integrate them all into the community?
  - Nora suggested working with various city departments, OED, Housing, SDOT, Human Services to improve nodes, increase small businesses, create gathering spaces, improve linkages, etc.
  - The urban garden is an example of a community character location that could be indicated on the map. P-Patch at MLK and Cloverdale and 55<sup>th</sup> and Roxbury community garden also noted.
  - Safety is another issue: most people felt safe within own neighborhoods, but not on the main thoroughfares.
    - Could look at including low-cost or free family activities in areas people feel are unsafe. Programming and maintenance cost money. Need to look at grants, etc for funding.
    - Could look at areas with restaurants, like area across from donut shop, etc. offering covered space.
    - Original plan was to do improvements at Mapes Creek. Daylighting was looked at, but creek flows beneath level of walkway. Need to take geography into consideration.
    - Public safety issues/pedestrian/bike safety issues/parking issues also should be addressed. Southeast Transportation Study looked at Rainier Corridor – road diet idea abandoned as it would cause major traffic back-ups. However, there are major recommendations for Rainier and intersections.
- How do we move forward?
  - We will be working on this from now until September.
  - Need to go out to community and get their ideas.

## **Phase II Community Workshop**

- Community meeting will be two hours long; with ½ hour of socializing time before the meeting.

- Gregory and Katy are tapped to do introduction.
- Will have a dot exercise and ask community to prioritize issues.
- Will then have an exercise on linkages/interconnectedness. Will focus on various identified areas with stations for discussions.
- Then need to talk about the whole community:
  - What are linkages between areas?
  - How do we create healthy community as a whole?
- The NAC suggested:
  - Not to use PowerPoint, as it is too hard to see in the venue.
  - Like the idea of healthy families, healthy communities focus.
  - To advertise as a drop-in event, rather than a scheduled event to increase participation.
  - PTSA will also be holding a bake sale at event, which may encourage participation.

***NAC members are asked email changes to wording and other suggestions to Nora or David.***

## **Wrap up**

- Gregory distributed copy of Rainier Beach Community Partners communication with the Seattle Schools Superintendent regarding possible closure of Rainier Beach High School.
  - Superintendent replied to the letter with appreciation of information and stated High School would not be closed in 2012-13.
  - The NAC is mentioned in response letter to the Superintendent when citing Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update as one of the initiatives underway towards the neighborhood's transformation.
  - Rainier Beach Community Partners is preparing a press release on this issue.

***The NAC members are asked to endorse the press release. Gregory will e-mail electronic version of the communication and press release to the NAC for their view and support.***

- Vallerie announced Community is invited to Rainier Beach end of year celebration on June 3, 2011 at Rainier Beach High School. Electronic version of the flyer will be emailed to NAC members.
- NAC members voted to leave next meeting schedule as is, on June 15, 2011.
- Kerry Wade is organizing Rainier Beach youth neighborhood walk (scavenger hunt). NAC will receive more information when ready and asked to participate if interested.